

**Notice of Allowability****Application No.**

10/628,173

**Applicant(s)**

THOMAS ET AL.

**Examiner**

MICHAEL PYZOSHA

**Art Unit**

2437

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 03/23/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 2-4, 7-12, 14-19, 22-24 and 27-30.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date 3/23/09
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 2-4, 7-12, 14-19, 22-24, and 27-30 are pending.
2. Amendment filed 03/23/2009 has been received and considered.

**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott M. Slomowitz (Reg. No. 39,032) on 06/04/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

27. (Currently Amended) A method for obscuring an identity of a source of a message while allowing content of the message issued from that source to be analyzed, and wherein the source is coupled to a ~~cable~~ television system operated by a system operator for receiving television programming content therefrom, said method comprising the steps of:

obscuring the content of the message from a system operator by encrypting the content of a message issued from the source to form a first message, said first message containing source identification indicia and wherein the system operator knows the identity of the source of said first message, said first message being transmitted upstream to a remote device on the cable television system;

decrypting said first message into a first decrypted message upon receipt of said first message by said remote device;

generating anonymous identification data upon receipt of said first message by said remote device;

substituting said source identification indicia with anonymous identification indicia into said first decrypted message to form a second message, and wherein said anonymous identification indicia cannot be traced back to the source; and

encrypting said second message and transmitting said second message to a location to be analyzed.

Claim 29: Please remove the word "cable" from line 3 of claim 29.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 2-4, 7-12, 14-19, 22-24, and 27-30 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Farmer (US 20030130893) teaches obscuring content by encrypting the content and sending it to an intermediate node to substitute the identifier with a generated anonymous identifier so it cannot be traced back by a third party (see paragraphs [0019] and [0028]), Farmer teaches this with respect to vehicles and makes no mention of use within a cable system. Furthermore, the intermediate node does not decrypt the received messages and re-encrypt them upon transmission. Conkwright teaches the use of anonymous identifiers with respect to a cable system but only briefly discloses the use of encryption without the specifics of the claimed limitations. Leven teaches the idea of encrypting a message to a first node where it is decrypted and then re-encrypted before sending it to a third node. As such at the time of the invention one of ordinary skill in the art would not look to these differing arts to create applicant's claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Engberg and DeCenzo teach anonymous data collection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL PYZOCHA whose telephone number is (571)272-3875. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:00am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Emmanuel Moise can be reached on (571) 272-3865. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Michael Pyzocha/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2437